

Claims

- [c1] A method for use with a server serving requested records among a multiplicity of records, and with a pre-determined list of record identifiers, and with a first file containing information about records corresponding to the record identifiers, the method comprising the steps of:
- selecting at least two of the record identifiers from the list;
 - for each one record identifier of the record identifiers:
 - by means of a stored program, presenting a request to the server with respect to the record identifier;
 - receiving a record from the server, said record corresponding to the record identifier;
 - parsing the record by means of a stored program, thereby deriving received information from the record indicative of available images;
 - by means of a stored program, comparing the derived information with corresponding information in the first file; and
 - in response to any difference between the received information of interest and the corresponding information in the first file, obtaining the newly available image or

images.

- [c2] The method of claim 1 wherein there are two or more newly available images, further comprising the step of combining the images into a single multipage image file.
- [c3] The method of claim 1 further comprising the step, performed after the parsing step, of replacing the information in the first file with the received information of interest.
- [c4] The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of creating or updating an extensible markup language file containing the information in the first file.
- [c5] The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of creating or updating a hypertext markup language file containing the information in the first file.
- [c6] The method of claim 1 wherein the announcing step further comprises sending email to a recipient.
- [c7] The method of claim 6 wherein the announcing step further comprises emailing the newly available image or images to the recipient.
- [c8] The method of claim 2 wherein the announcing step further comprises emailing the single multipage image file to a recipient.

- [c9] The method of claim 1 wherein the server is a hypertext transfer protocol server, and the presenting and receiving steps are performed according to a hypertext transfer protocol.
- [c10] The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of serving records in the hypertext markup language file on a hypertext transfer protocol server.
- [c11] The method of claim 1 wherein the presenting and receiving steps are performed by means of a cryptographically secure communications link with the server.
- [c12] The method of claim 11 wherein the server is a hypertext transfer protocol server, and the presenting and receiving steps are performed according to a hypertext transfer protocol.
- [c13] The method of claim 1 wherein the record identifiers are patent application serial numbers.
- [c14] The method of claim 1 wherein the record identifiers are trademark application serial numbers.
- [c15] The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of requesting from the server all record identifiers matching a predetermined criterion, and adding any new record identifiers to the first file.

- [c16] The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of announcing any new record identifiers.
- [c17] The method of claim 16 wherein the announcing of new record identifiers comprises sending an email message.
- [c18] The method of claim 15 wherein the predetermined criterion comprises matching a customer number.
- [c19] A system for use with a server serving requested records among a multiplicity of records, the system comprising:
 - a predetermined list of record identifiers;
 - a first file containing information about records corresponding to the record identifiers;
 - first means for selecting at least two of the record identifiers from the list;
 - second means with respect to each one record identifier of the record identifiers for:
 - presenting a request to the server with respect to the record identifier;
 - receiving a record from the server, said record corresponding to the record identifier;
 - parsing the record, thereby deriving received information from the record indicative of available images;
 - comparing the derived information with corresponding information in the first file; and

in response to any difference between the received information of interest and the corresponding information in the first file, obtaining the newly available image or images.

[c20] The system of claim 19 wherein the second means further performs the step, performed after the parsing step, of replacing the information in the first file with the received information of interest.

[c21] The system of claim 20 wherein the second means further performs the step of creating or updating an extensible markup language file containing the information in the first file.

[c22] The system of claim 20 wherein the second means further performs the step of creating or updating a hypertext markup language file containing the information in the first file.

[c23] The system of claim 19 wherein the announcing further comprises sending email to a recipient.

[c24] The system of claim 19 wherein the server is a hypertext transfer protocol server, and the presenting and receiving are performed according to a hypertext transfer protocol.

- [c25] The system of claim 22 further comprising a hypertext transfer protocol server serving records in the hypertext markup language file.
- [c26] The system of claim 19 further comprising cryptographic means establishing a cryptographically secure communications link with the server.
- [c27] The system of claim 19 wherein there is further provided a third means responsive to there being two or more newly available images, for combining the images into a single multipage image file.
- [c28] A method for use with a server serving requested records among a multiplicity of records, and with a predetermined list of record identifiers, and with a first file containing information about records corresponding to the record identifiers, the method comprising the steps of:
- selecting at least two of the record identifiers from the list;
 - for each one record identifier of the record identifiers:
 - by means of a stored program, presenting a request to the server with respect to the record identifier;
 - receiving a record from the server, said record corresponding to the record identifier;
 - by means of a stored program, parsing the record,

thereby deriving received information of interest from the record;
by means of a stored program, comparing the received information of interest with corresponding information in the first file; and
by means of a stored program announcing any difference between the received information of interest and the corresponding information in the first file.

- [c29] The method of claim 28 further comprising the step, performed after the parsing step, of replacing the information in the first file with the received information of interest.
- [c30] The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of creating or updating an extensible markup language file containing the information in the first file.
- [c31] The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of creating or updating a hypertext markup language file containing the information in the first file.
- [c32] The method of claim 28 wherein the announcing step further comprises sending email to a recipient.
- [c33] The method of claim 28 wherein the server is a hypertext transfer protocol server, and the presenting and receiving steps are performed according to a hypertext trans-

fer protocol.

- [c34] The method of claim 31 further comprising the step of serving records in the hypertext markup language file on a hypertext transfer protocol server.
- [c35] The method of claim 28 wherein the presenting and receiving steps are performed by means of a cryptographically secure communications link with the server.
- [c36] The method of claim 35 wherein the server is a hypertext transfer protocol server, and the presenting and receiving steps are performed according to a hypertext transfer protocol.
- [c37] The method of claim 28 wherein the record identifiers are patent application serial numbers.
- [c38] The method of claim 28 wherein the record identifiers are trademark application serial numbers.
- [c39] The method of claim 28 wherein the record identifiers are package tracking numbers.
- [c40] The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of requesting from the server all record identifiers matching a predetermined criterion, and adding any new record identifiers to the first file.

- [c41] The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of announcing any new record identifiers.
- [c42] The method of claim 41 wherein the announcing of new record identifiers comprises sending an email message.
- [c43] The method of claim 40 wherein the predetermined criterion comprises matching a customer number.
- [c44] A method for use with a server serving requested records among a multiplicity of records, and with a predetermined list of record identifiers, and with a first file containing information about records corresponding to the record identifiers, the method comprising the steps of:
- selecting at least two of the record identifiers from the list;
 - for each one record identifier of the record identifiers:
 - by means of a stored program, presenting a request to the server with respect to the record identifier;
 - receiving a record from the server, said record corresponding to the record identifier;
 - parsing the record by means of a stored program, thereby deriving received information from the record indicative of available images;
 - by means of a stored program, comparing the derived information with corresponding information in the first

file; and

in response to any difference between the received information of interest and the corresponding information in the first file, identifying a uniform resource locator for each of the the newly available image or images.

- [c45] The method of claim 44 further comprising the step, performed after the parsing step, of replacing the information in the first file with the received information of interest.
- [c46] The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of creating or updating an extensible markup language file containing the information in the first file and embedding the uniform resource locator in the extensible markup language file.
- [c47] The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of creating or updating a hypertext markup language file containing the information in the first file and embedding the uniform resource locator in the hypertext markup language file.
- [c48] The method of claim 45 wherein the announcing step further comprises sending email to a recipient containing the uniform resource locator.
- [c49] The method of claim 44 wherein the server is a hypertext

transfer protocol server, and the presenting and receiving steps are performed according to a hypertext transfer protocol.

[c50] The method of claim 47 further comprising the step of serving records in the hypertext markup language file on a hypertext transfer protocol server.

[c51] The method of claim 44 wherein the presenting and receiving steps are performed by means of a cryptographically secure communications link with the server.

[c52] The method of claim 51 wherein the server is a hypertext transfer protocol server, and the presenting and receiving steps are performed according to a hypertext transfer protocol.

[c53] The method of claim 44 wherein the record identifiers are patent application serial numbers.

[c54] The method of claim 44 wherein the record identifiers are trademark application serial numbers.

[c55] The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of requesting from the server all record identifiers matching a predetermined criterion, and adding any new record identifiers to the first file.

[c56] The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of

annunciating any new record identifiers.

[c57] The method of claim 44 wherein the annunciating of new record identifiers comprises sending an email message.

[c58] The method of claim 55 wherein the predetermined criterion comprises matching a customer number.

[c59] A system for use with a server serving requested records among a multiplicity of records, the system comprising:
a predetermined list of record identifiers;
a first file containing information about records corresponding to the record identifiers;
first means for selecting at least two of the record identifiers from the list;
second means with respect to each one record identifier of the record identifiers for:
presenting a request to the server with respect to the record identifier;
receiving a record from the server, said record corresponding to the record identifier;
parsing the record, thereby deriving received information from the record indicative of available images;
comparing the derived information with corresponding information in the first file; and
in response to any difference between the received information of interest and the corresponding information

in the first file, identifying a uniform resource locator for each of the the newly available image or images.

[c60] The system of claim 59 wherein the second means further performs the step, performed after the parsing step, of replacing the information in the first file with the received information of interest.

[c61] The system of claim 60 wherein the second means further performs the step of creating or updating an extensible markup language file containing the information in the first file and embedding the uniform resource locator for each of the newly available image or images.

[c62] The system of claim 60 wherein the second means further performs the step of creating or updating a hypertext markup language file containing the information in the first file and embedding the uniform resource locator for each of the newly available image or images.

[c63] The system of claim 59 wherein the announcing further comprises sending email to a recipient including the uniform resource locator.

[c64] The system of claim 59 wherein the server is a hypertext transfer protocol server, and the presenting and receiving are performed according to a hypertext transfer protocol.

- [c65] The system of claim 62 further comprising a hypertext transfer protocol server serving records in the hypertext markup language file.
- [c66] The system of claim 59 further comprising cryptographic means establishing a cryptographically secure communications link with the server.
- [c67] A method for use with a server serving requested records among a multiplicity of records, and with a pre-determined list of record identifiers, and with a first file containing information about records corresponding to the record identifiers, the method comprising the steps of:
- selecting at least two of the record identifiers from the list;
 - for each one record identifier of the record identifiers:
 - by means of a stored program, presenting a request to the server with respect to the record identifier;
 - receiving a record from the server, said record corresponding to the record identifier;
 - by means of a stored program, parsing the record, thereby deriving received information of interest from the record;
 - by means of a stored program, comparing the received information of interest with corresponding information

in the first file; and

by means of a stored program annunciating any difference between the received information of interest and the corresponding information in the first file.